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proceedings of this assembly, one only it will be necessary to relate. Among other gentlemen who offered to the assembly more or less of explanation on the existing state of the Institution, Mr. Whitbread was one, to whom it occurred, that one effort more might still be tried to subdue the mind of Mr. Lancaster, and to prevent that appearance of discord which his separation from the Institution might produce. After urging upon Mr. Lancaster, in the strongest terms, the unreasonable nature of his pretensions, after telling him literally that an insatiable desire of power had led him to oppose the interests of the Institution; that for the exercise of power he was altogether unqualified, and for the prevention of mischief that it must be entirely kept out of his hands; he added, that a situation had however been expressly chalked out for him—that sort of situation in which alone he was qualified to be useful; that the Institution not only held even yet the door open to him, but were ready to intreat and to implore him to enter; and that, in the name of the society, he did accordingly both entreat and implore that he would accept the office which was held out to him. The consequence was, that Mr. Lancaster complied; and that the office of Superintendent, with the duties and on the terms above described, is now filled by him. He has a definite duty to perform, and a definite salary to receive. And the funds of the Institution are, as they ought to be, in the hands of those who contribute them; to be applied and managed, through the whole details of application and management, by themselves, under the administration of those whom, as their committees or delegates, they themselves may appoint. As this is the only plan calculated to give

full satisfaction to the public, and the best security that can be afforded against mismanagement, it is fondly hoped, that the new constitution may form a new era in the history of “Schools for all,” give a new impulse to the system, remove obstructions, multiply aids, and accelerate the important progress.

Till the next general meeting, which it is proposed to hold in the month of May, it has been deemed advisable, that the old committee, associating with themselves such of the subscribers as were disposed to assist, should continue in office, and discharge the duties of administration. At that meeting, if the subscribers shall confirm the code which has received their preliminary sanction, they will proceed to take the business into their own hands, and elect their own administrators.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

AS you frequently admit into the pages of your Magazine, descriptions of particular parts of the country, with the remarks of those who communicate them, I hope you will appropriate a column or two to a short description of the beautiful demesne of Church-hill, the residence of James Verner, Esq.; which, in point of improvement, deserves to be held up as a pattern to every gentleman in the kingdom, who possesses the same kind of property.

Church-hill stands on a small rising ground near the Blackwater river, in the County of Armagh, almost wholly surrounded by an immense bog, and previous to coming into possession of its present proprietor, it had been but very little improved.

In passing frequently between the Counties of Armagh and Tyrone, when this gentleman commenced his plan of draining and planting

the surrounding bog, it appeared to me, as it did to some others, a scheme in which he was not likely to succeed. I thought it extremely improbable, that trees would grow to any degree of perfection on the surface of a flow-bog, from 10 to 20 feet deep, and I expected every time I passed that way, to see them declining, after their roots had extended beyond the limits of the small portion of earth that had been applied to assist them in the first stage of their growth. Contrary to my expectation, I observed them from year to year making a progress nearly, if not equal, to trees planted in more favourable situations; and my desire to obtain a more particular view of the plantations and other improvements, becoming stronger every time I passed that way, I determined to avail myself of the first opportunity that presented, of gratifying my curiosity. I, accordingly rode up to Church-hill house, and was received by the proprietor with the greatest politeness. In the course of the forenoon, he walked over all the demesne with me; showed me the improvements he had made, and explained, in the clearest and most circumstantial way, the manner in which he had effected them.

In passing along the boundaries of the demesne, my attention was particularly attracted by the striking contrast between the improved and unimproved parts of it. On one side of the fence, was to be seen a widely extended bog, covered with the coarsest heath; and, on the other side, rich pasture and meadow lands, clothed with abundance of the finest grass, such as might induce any person unacquainted with the nature of the improvements, to suppose that the soil underneath was a fine loam, instead of a deep bog. Indeed, on examining it where

the labourers were in the act of raising a crop of potatoes, the most abundant I recollect to have seen, the mould had totally changed its appearance, and had no kind of resemblance to its original; not a vestige of heath, rushes, or any aquatic plant appearing to discover that so fine a surface was incumbent on a bog of from 6 to 10 feet deep.

In walking through the planting, from the centre to the extremity of the demesne, I was ready to conclude, from the strong healthy appearance of the trees, that they were growing on rich and deep upland soil. I was not aware of our having descended into the boggy part, until a deep drain cut through the moss obstructed our walk, and convinced me that the trees I so much admired were growing on a flow-bog, not less than from ten to twelve feet deep. This was a most agreeable surprise to me, as I had never before imagined, that Larch, Scotch-fir, Ash, and a great variety of other trees, would thrive in so luxurious a manner, in such a situation; and, indeed, I could discover very little, if any, difference in the growth and healthy appearance of those on the upland, and those in the bog.

In viewing these improvements, I was naturally led to consider what great tracts of bog are to be seen in many parts of Ireland, and what national advantage would result from having those bogs, or even a principal part of them improved in a similar manner as those of Church-hill.

I recollected a nomination made a few years ago, in consequence of a vote of Parliament, of a number of commissioners to inspect the waste bogs of the kingdom, with a view, no doubt, to ascertain how far they were capable of improvement, and what mode was best calculated to effect it. These gentlemen, I

have understood, did inspect the bog of Allen, and perhaps some others; but what the result of these inspections has been, and whether it will ultimately lead to the desired improvement, I do not know. I have heard it said that the expense incurred was so great, that parliament was discouraged from proceeding any farther in the business, although very little more was done to justify that expense than ascertaining the extent and depth of the bogs.

If the improvement of these great wastes cannot be effected by parliamentary interference, why is it not attempted by such gentlemen as have much of that kind of property on their estates? They have an excellent pattern before their eyes in the fine plantations of Church-hill, and an example worthy their imitation in the judgment and persevering industry of the proprietor. They need not be told they will promote their own and their successors' interest by making these improvements, because such a consequence must be obvious to every person of common discernment. It is equally clear that they will confer a benefit on the nation by converting a large portion of useless and unprofitable land into a nursery for rearing a supply of timber, which at the present day is become extremely scarce, through the negligence and supineness of the gentlemen of landed property. They may possibly urge in extenuation of their neglect, the great expense and trouble attendant on improvements of that kind, and that it is an easy matter to effect them on a small spot like Church-hill, but an arduous and expensive task to engage in reclaiming thousands of acres. Very true; but it does not follow of course, that because a gentleman possesses a thousand acres of bog, he must either reclaim the whole or none at all.

No man in his senses would propose his improving to such an extent as would swallow up the whole of his income. Let him commence the business on a scale suited to his circumstances, and proceed with prudent but unabating perseverance, as he finds the result of his endeavours answer his expectations. He would thus set a noble example to other gentlemen, and leave such a pattern to his heirs, as might induce them to enter with spirit into the same plan of improvement. These exertions would open a field for the more general employment of the peasantry, who in the neighbourhood of large bogs have seldom a sufficiency of work; and in a few years, the extensive wastes that deform the face of the country would be changed into beautiful forests, both useful and ornamental.

Although in giving this short description of the improvements at Church-hill, I have confined myself principally to the useful part, yet there is abundant room for commending the judgment and taste with which the whole is laid down. Those who have not seen Church-hill previous to its coming into the possession of its present proprietor, can have but an imperfect idea of the arduous work he has had to perform. Exclusive of the difficult task of draining and planting the bog, he has changed the whole face of the place, and given it a neatness of appearance, that will bear to be compared with demesnes of much greater extent, and possessed of many superior natural advantages. Nor has the improving disposition of this gentleman been confined to Church-hill; for in travelling through a part of the county of Tyrone, I observed in the neighbourhood of Ballygawly, a considerable change in the face of the country, I saw with pleasure fine grass and corn

fields where I recollected to have formerly seen nothing but heath. I also saw many thousands of trees standing on the steep banks of small valleys, where neither the plough nor the spade could be profitably employed. On inquiring of a gentleman, to whom these improvements belonged, I was told they were the property of Mr Verner, who had a very large mountain estate in that country.

I shall now conclude my remarks on the subject of this gentleman's improvements. Should they, through the channel of your useful Maga-

zine, meet the eye of any gentleman who has much unprofitable bog in his estate, and induce him to enter with spirit into the plan of improving it, my motives for making them will be answered : but should my observations pass unnoticed and unregarded, I shall at least have the satisfaction of knowing that I have attempted to do justice to a gentleman who has done more towards the plan of improving waste bogs, than all the commissioners under the authority of Parliament, with large salaries, have yet done.

X. Y.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIR OF PHILIP BEAVER, ESQ., COMMANDANT OF THE SHIP NISUS.

IN selecting subjects for the Biographical department of the Belfast Magazine, especial care has been taken to exclude warriors. In the present war-loving age, when the energies of the people have been misdirected for 20 years, and their habits too generally formed on the system of continual and unceasing war, it has been thought right that the pages of this work should not minister to this really ignoble passion, but by holding civil merit up to view, whether it appeared in man or woman, to lead to the contemplation of "the peaceful virtues." In the present instance, there is an apparent departure from the general plan; but on farther inspection, it is hoped the exception from the accustomed rule will not be found to be real. Philip Beaver was a warrior by profession and by accident, but the energetic firmness which constituted the real merit

of his character, would have been as conspicuous in the arts of peace, if his situation had placed him totally out of the military class. As he is, benevolence, philanthropy, and a love of justice, joined with firmness, and the greatest perseverance, formed his distinguishing characteristics, and are deserving of imitation, and of their due praise.

It is the characteristic of true greatness, that it is always its own eulogist; and in no instance is the truth of this observation more clearly elucidated than by the instance before us; for the greatest praise which can be conferred upon Captain Beaver, will be to recount with fidelity the various events of his life, and the upright manner in which he conducted himself in those trying situations wherein it was his lot frequently to be placed. Philip Beaver was the son of the Rev. Dr. Beaver, a clergyman of the established church of England, and rector of Stokenchurch in Oxfordshire, who died in the prime of life, leaving in narrow circumstances an amiable